ORIGIN/ACTION

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TR	XMB	AIR 5
ARMY 3	CIA 20	NAVY 5
OSD 33	USIA 10	NSA 3

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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A-51 NO. | CONFIDENTIAL | PRIORITY HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO: ANKARA, NICOSIA, THESSALONIKI, PARIS, LONDON

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 27 9 35 AM 1967
J P Owens (mrc)
8/10/67
ARMS CONTROLS BRANCH

FROM : Amembassy ATHENS

DATE: July 26, 1967

SUBJECT: Beginning Month IV

Cont government

REF :

Sunday's papers carried official government declaration on achievements of "national Government" during three months since coming to power April 21. Philosophy of the Revolution, according statement, is based on motto "National, Economic and Social Rebirth" of country. In its first policy statements National Government set as its mission the following: enforcement of laws, avoidance of dissension and threatened social and national strife, emergence of country from national, political, economic, social and moral impasse into which it had been led, cleansing of state machinery and creation of a new state which would be the servant rather than the master of the citizen.

Government statement listed following as principal achievements of revolution to date: dissolution of EDA and its "outlawing"; dissolution youth groups of all parties and termination involvement of youth in politics; establishment committee to revise non-fundamental articles of Constitution; reorganization of governmental administration, including requirement that public inquiries be answered within three days, elimination of middlemen, creation special complaints office in each ministry, abolition of special committees and councils which added to red tape; in economic field statement stressed monetary stability, drop in cost of living, increase in private foreign investment; in field

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Drafted by: POL:RVKeeley:js 7/25/67

Contents and Classification Approved by: POL:KWBracken

Clearances: ECON:HOdell (Draft)

of labor statement cites salary increases through collective bargaining procedures, better social protection granted to workers, steps taken to enforce labor laws. Statement concludes that government considers it a duty to render accounting to people, feels proud because it has achieved so much in so short a time, and considers its achievements to be those of the people.

Saturday's papers carried government-encouraged editorials on same theme of three months' accomplishments. Commentaries stressed the following achievements: new wheat policy, commitment to economic development, increased farmers' pensions, reduction bus fares on certain lines, opening up of "closed" professions (bakers, taxi drivers, etc.), abolition many administrative councils, appointment of new men to head various government services and organizations, replacement of all nomarchs, and appointment of new smaller and more efficient administrative councils. Vima played up rehabilitation of economy and said ministers are "energetically countering enemy propaganda that country is on eve of economic disaster." Akropolis gave government credit for establishing peace and order throughout country and for satisfying just claims of all classes. Eleftheros Kosmos emphasized that the government has stopped country's slide toward Communism. Also "for first time in many years Greek people have sensation they are being governed. There is no longer stagnation."

COMMENT: Government has obviously stressed "achievements" which it believes have popular appeal. One paper (Ta Nea, formerly Center Union) went so far as to say that "all aims of the Revolution have been attained." There is some speculation newspapers will gladly help government feel it has accomplished its purpose in order to ease it into an election decision.